

REMARKS

The outstanding non-final Office Action mailed November 14, 2005 (Part of Paper No. 20051109) has been carefully considered. In response thereto, please enter the following amendments in, which claims 1, 23-27, 29-33, and 46-51 are amended and claims 16-22 and 36-45 are canceled. Claims 1-15, 23-35, and 46-53 are now pending in the present application. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant also wishes to express his sincere appreciation for the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter of claim 28 as set forth in this Office Action.

Examiner's Proposed Amendments

Additionally, Applicant wishes to express his sincere appreciation for the Examiner's facsimile of February 10, 2006, containing proposed amendments to overcome the prior art of record. Applicant has amended the claims accordingly.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. §102(b) – U.S. Patent No. 5,259,811

Claims 1, 3-10, 15, and 52-53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Berry (U.S. Patent No. 5,259,811). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the reason that the amendments to the claims render the rejections moot.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. §102(b) – U.S. Patent No. 5,514,033

Claims 1, 10-11 and 13-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Berry (U.S. Patent No. 5,514,033). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the reason that the amendments to the claims render the rejections moot.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 2

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Berry (U.S. Patent No. 5,259,811). Dependent claim 2 is believed to be allowable for at least the reason that this claim depends from allowable independent claim 1. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1600 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 2 be withdrawn.

Claim 12

Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Berry (U.S. Patent No. 5,514,033) as applied to claim 11 above, and further in view of van den Brink (U.S. Patent No. 4,658,476). Dependent claim 12 is believed to be allowable for at least the reason that this claim depends from allowable independent claim 1. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1600 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 12 be withdrawn.

Claims 52-53

Claims 52-53 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Berry (U.S. Patent No. 5,514,033) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Berry (U.S. Patent No. 5,259,811). Dependent claims 52-53 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent claim 1. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1600 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 52-53 be withdrawn.

Claims 22-27, 29, and 45-48

Claims 22-27, 29, and 45-48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over van den Brink (U.S. Patent No. 4,658,476) in view of Sharp et al. (U.S. Patent No. 2,739,347). Applicant respectfully submits that claims 22 and 45 are

canceled herein. Dependent claims 23-27, 29, and 46-48 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent claim 1. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1600 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 23-27, 29, and 46-48 be withdrawn.

Claim 30

Claim 30 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over van den Brink (U.S. Patent No. 4,658,476) as modified by Sharp et al. (U.S. Patent No. 2,739,347), as applied to claim 22 above, and further in view of Millard (U.S. Patent No. 6,561,555). Dependent claim 30 is believed to be allowable for at least the reason that this claim depends from allowable independent claim 1. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1600 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 30 be withdrawn.

Claims 31-32

Claims 31-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over van den Brink (U.S. Patent No. 4,658,476) as modified by Sharp et al. (U.S. Patent No. 2,739,347), as applied to claim 22 above, and further in view of Berry (U.S. Patent No. 5,259,811). Dependent claims 31-32 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent claim 1. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1600 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 31-32 be withdrawn.

Claim 49

Claim 49 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over van den Brink (U.S. Patent No. 4,658,476) as modified by Sharp et al. (U.S. Patent No. 2,739,347), as applied to claim 23 above, further in view of Berry (U.S. Patent No. 5,514,033). Dependent claim 49 is believed to be allowable for at least the reason that this claim depends from allowable independent claim 1. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071,

5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1600 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 49 be withdrawn.

Claims 50-51

Claims 50-51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over van den Brink (U.S. Patent No. 4,658,476) as modified by Sharp et al. (U.S. Patent No. 2,739,347), as applied to claim 23 above, and further in view of Cody et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,086,469). Dependent claims 50-51 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent claim 1. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1600 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 50-51 be withdrawn.

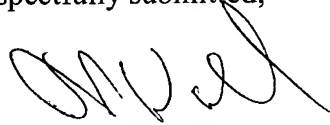
Claims 33-35

Claims 33-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over van den Brink (U.S. Patent No. 4,658,476) in view of Sharp et al. (U.S. Patent No. 2,739,347) and further in view of Cody et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,086,469). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 33 for at least the reason that the amendments to the claim render the rejection moot. Dependent claims 34-35 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent claim 33. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1600 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 34-35 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims 1-15, 23-35, and 46-53 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



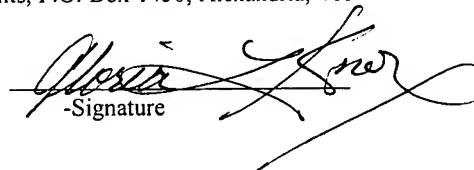
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